

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR US CA

SUBJECT: US-CANADA BILATERAL RELATIONS:PRESS COMMENT

1. UNDER HEADLINE "BETTER RELATIONS" LEAD EDITORIAL IN HALIFAX "CHRONICLE-HERALD" (3/10/77) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IMPROVED US-CANADA RELATIONS WILL ENDURE FOR MANY YEARS BUT INDICATED QUALMS ABOUT CONTEXT IN WHICH PRES CARTER HAS RECENTLY LAUDED THE PRESENT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, CARTER'S DESCRIPTIONS OF "AN IMPROVING RELATIONSHIP" AND "A GOOD RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES CAME ON THE HEELS OF EARLIER STATEMENTS HE MADE TO A GATHERING OF NEWS EDITORS ON THE SUBJECT OF EXPORTS OF CANADIAN ENERGY RESOURCES TO THE US AND ON SENDING GAS FROM THE ARCTIC TO THE US BY PIPELINE THRU CANADIAN TERRITORY.
2. AFTER NOTING ANTI-AMERICANISM ON THE PART OF SOME CANADIANS AND THE INDIFFERENCE TOWARDS CANADA FELT BY MANY AMERICANS EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH FOLLOWING SENTENCE COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS:

"WHEN HE TALKS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS
IN THE SAME BREATH AS HE TALKS OF PIPE-
LINES AND FUEL EXPORTS FROM CANADA,
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ONE MAY BE FORGIVEN FOR WONDERING IF
THE IMPROVING RELATIONS ARE QUICKENED
BY NATIONAL INTEREST OR INTERNATIONAL
BENEFIT -- ONE WOULD HOPE THAT IT IS
THE LATTER."

3. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL WRITTEN

AND IS UNLIKELY TO EXCITE MUCH COMMENT. IT IS, HOWEVER,
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ALMOST TALMUDIC EXEGESIS GIVEN TO
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
ONE MUST, IT SEEMS, SAY NOT ONLY THE RIGHT THINGS, BUT
ONE MUST BE ALSO EXTRA CAREFUL OF THE CONTEXT. SMALL
WONDER THAT PRESIDENTS AND ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN SO
OFTEN SEEM UNWILLING TO SAY ANYTHING AT ALL.
END COMMENT.
MOORE

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